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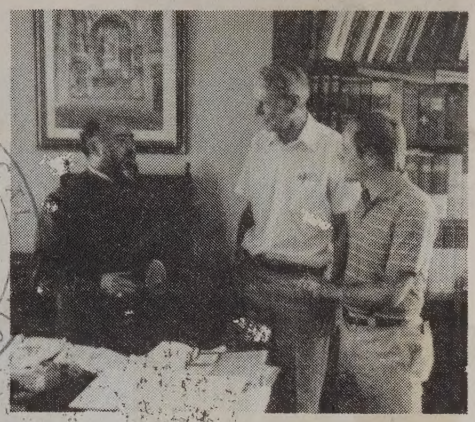

UCBWM's David Stowe and Dale Bishop talk with His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of the Armenian Orthodox Church, in his office near Beirut.

whole Earth newsletter

FALL 1982 Vol. XI, No. 2

UCC Leaders Report on Mission to Beirut

"Our mission of fellowship to the people and churches of Lebanon took place at a time of agony for that country. And yet we return with a message of hope as well as a strong call for help to our fellow Christians and fellow human beings in that ravaged land."

These words were part of a report on the 10-day trip in September by David Stowe, executive vice president of the United Church Board for World Ministries, and Dale Bishop, UCBWM regional secretary for the Middle East. Also part of the mission were Richard Butler, Middle East secretary for the National Council of Churches and former staff member of the UCBWM; William Koshewa, Minister of the Southern Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ; and Sarah Cunningham, associate editor of *A.D.*

Leaving New York on September 10, the group flew to Cyprus where they boarded an ancient freighter aptly named *Divina,* which was to take them to the port city of Journieh north of Beirut. While still at sea they received word of the assassination of the nation's president-elect Bashir Gemayel. As they neared the Lebanese coast they were halted by an Israeli gunboat but finally allowed to proceed.

During the first days in Lebanon the group stayed in east Beirut, where they were able to talk with various church leaders such as His Holiness Karekin II of the Armenian Orthodox Church (see picture above). Ultimately they made their way to

Continued on page 2

A Capsule Report

The Near East School of Theology (NEST) is undamaged. Its president, UCC missionary **Verne Fletcher,** and his family had gone to Cyprus at the start of the recent warfare, but Verne and one daughter returned to Beirut on September 15. **Alice Fletcher** and another daughter remain in Cyprus. NEST had served as a Palestinian Red Crescent hospital during the summer. With the Israeli occupation of west Beirut and the Sabra and Shatila massacres, it became a hospital again, this time under the auspices of the International Red Cross.

Missionaries **James and Kathleen O'Dea** are safe and well in west Beirut. They are working with the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) helping coordinate relief activities.

Gabriel Habib, general secretary of the MECC, and all the rest of the staff have come safely through the summer and the recent occupation, but many of them are temporarily located in regional offices outside Beirut.

FOR A SPECIAL REPORT ON REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, SEE PAGES 4 AND 5

Continuing the Missionary Herald, founded 1805.
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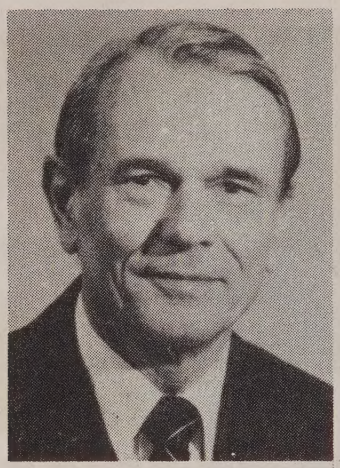


Message From The EVP

A visit of Christian fellowship to Beirut during the tumultuous days of mid-September made one very acutely aware of "Israel." From earliest days in Sunday School we learn to think of Israel as the Chosen People, destined to be inheritors of the Canaanites' land of milk and honey. Now we were seeing Israel as the fourth largest military power of 1982, an immensely effective, modern, technological society extending its power once again over the ancient land of Canaan.

Israel was bombing and shelling west Beirut as our ship from Cyprus proceeded under the watchful eye of an Israeli warship into a Lebanese port. Amidst a blackout we saw Israeli flares over south Beirut. We learned the reason for them later as word of the slaughter in the Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila slipped out into the consciousness of the world. Soldiers of Israel checked out our hotel; they manned the checkpoints where one tried to cross the city; they determined in their good pleasure when we should be allowed to enter and to leave Lebanon.

From the ancient literature of Israel that we call the Old Testament many phrases kept surfacing in my memory. "Shall the sword devour forever? Knowest thou not that it will be bitterness in the latter end?" (2 Samuel 2:26) "And they took the city [Jericho]. And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old. . . ."(Joshua 6:20-21) Dead babies in the arms of their dead mothers, rotting in the hot Mediterranean sun.

Terrible images are embedded in the scriptures. They are familiar by usage and ratified by tradition, but they can be deadly in their application to the real life of human beings. There are also many glorious things in the Hebrew scriptures, of course. They are a permanent treasure of the Christian church and the whole human race as well as of the Jewish people. These scriptures shaped Jesus' life and message, and without them we can scarcely understand him. Christians believe that in a very special way he completes and fulfills them.

That terrible things have been done in the name of Israel and recorded in its scriptures should not blind us to the fact that terrible things have been done in the name of Christ as well. After all, it was "Christian" gunmen turned loose by "Israel's" soldiers who "utterly destroyed . . . both man and woman, young and old" in the Sabra and Shatila camps. Even in the New Testament there are images which have provided the occasion for terrible evil in history. One thinks of the report in Matthew that the people of Jerusalem said to Pilate, in demanding the death of Jesus, "His blood be on us, and on our children." Centuries of Christian savagery toward Jews have been rationalized by that verse.

It is the hope of Christian mission that, in faithful and humble sharing of the spirit and intention of Jesus as we can best understand them, there will come a fulfillment of all that is most authentic in all scriptures and a cleansing from all religious traditions of whatever runs counter to peace and justice.

In such mission we enact our hope as Christians that the sword will not devour forever but that "they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks . . . neither shall they learn war any more." (Isaiah 2:4)

The horror of Sabra and Shatila seems to have encouraged a coming together of Jews and Christians concerned for peace. May we in Christian mission faithfully bear witness in a dialogue that will extend the reign of the one true God in all lands and among all peoples.

David M. Stowe

BEIRUT
Continued from page 1

west Beirut, passing Israeli checkpoints only because they were accompanied by medical personnel—nurses coming to serve at the American University Hospital. In west Beirut are located the office of the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC), a strong and effective partner of the UCC throughout the entire Middle East, and the Near East School of Theology, a small ecumenical and international theological school which has struggled to keep going during the long years of civil strife, invasion, and occupation.

"Gabriel Habib, general secretary of the MECC, was like a field commander deploying his troops," says Dale Bishop. "We were there in the MECC office when two Scandinavian nurses came in from the Gaza Hospital near the Shatila refugee camp and collapsed in horror, shock, and tears as they told us what they had heard of the massacres in the camps and seen of the wounded survivors who came crowding into their hospital."

The MECC, Bishop pointed out, carried on a magnificent ministry during those terrible days, giving help wherever it could to whoever needed it. Because it has been non-partisan throughout the struggles, refusing to take sides with the Christian Phalangists or Major Haddad or any group, the MECC has now achieved amazing credibility and respect from **all** groups.

"This fact," says David Stowe, "is a real basis for hope. We believe that Lebanon now has a great chance for a new start. And we believe that the American churches—working in part through our own Board and through the Middle East Council of Churches—can make a great contribution to the rebuilding of this devastated land."

African and Asian Women Arrive For Mission to the United States

Coming from several nations and several points of the compass, eight African and Asian women arrived in New York in early September to begin a "mission to the churches of the U.S."

Welcoming them at the offices of the United Church Board for World Ministries, Rev. Elinor Galusha, UCBWM secretary for Overseas Personnel and coordinator of the special mission, reminded them that we North American church people are quite used to "sending" missionaries but not so used to receiving people whose churches send *them* to *us*. "We need to learn to listen to what you have to say to us," she stressed. "You are here to share with us your heart, your thinking, and your faith."

Three more women from Cuba, India, and Egypt are expected to join the program later in the year.

The mission to the U.S.—called "Women and World: That They May Hear"—is funded by the Family Thank Offering and sponsored by the UCBWM in cooperation with the Coordinating Center for Women. One of its chief goals is to help North Americans understand more fully the role of women in church and society in lands other than our own.

The eight women will be working in 14 UCC Conferences for periods of one to ten months each. Their names and assignments are listed on page 14 under "Appointments." If they are going to be in your Conference, be sure to plug into their program through your Conference office.

Ruth Schellbach

First row from left: Mary Elias, Sri Lanka; Edelmira Navarro, Philippines; Vida Dzobo, Ghana. Second row: Ellen Segbefia, Ghana; Susan Mkwakwami, Zimbabwe; Purificacion Ignacio, Philippines. Third row: Ennah Nsofu, Zambia; Marilyn Breitling, Coordinating Center for Women; and Bella Bagh, India.

Raise the Song of Harvest Home

Thoughts for a Season of Thanksgiving

There are 400 million people in the world who are starving. (The number will rise to 600 million by the year 2000.)

There are 15 to 20 million people who die each year from hunger and malnutrition—41,000 each day.

BUT:

"It should be possible to overcome the worst aspects of widespread hunger and malnutrition in one generation." (*National Academy of Sciences*)

"There is now the scientific knowledge and the institutional arrangement which makes it possible to overcome hunger, not only in the United States but throughout the world." (*The Heritage Foundation*)

"So what we need, *urgently*, is a new political will, a determination to deal with the causes of the situation and to mitigate its effects." (*52 Nobel Prize laureates*)

"We stand by as children starve by the millions because we lack the **will** to eliminate hunger. Yet we have found the will to develop missiles capable of flying over the polar cap and landing within a few hundred feet of their target. This is not innovation; it is a profound distortion of humanity's purpose on earth." (*Senator Mark Hatfield, Rep., Oregon*)

If you share the belief that food is a basic human right, if you want to end hunger as smallpox has been ended, if you are determined to deal with the causes of hunger and to mitigate its effects, one thing you can do is to contribute to the **Hunger Action Fund** of the United Church of Christ.

THE HUNGER ACTION FUND:

- helps to support direct aid to the hungry in the U.S. (food pantries, food co-ops, food banks)
- works toward justice for the hungry through legislative advocacy
- supports organization and mobilization that enlists UCC members in hunger-related activities.

The church is fighting an uphill battle against hunger. "But," says Rev. Neill Richards, coordinator of the UCC's Hunger Action Program, "in spite of continuing hunger and poverty, our efforts *do* have an effect. We *do* make a difference."

Send your contribution to the Hunger Action Office, United Church Board for World Ministries, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115.

REFUGEES: Report on an Urgent Priority

Chicago Church Becomes a Sanctuary

"Our congregation has learned that the word 'sanctuary' means more than the space in which we worship on Sunday morning."

Rev. David C. Chevrier, pastor of Chicago's Wellington Avenue UCC, is describing the vote of his 125-member church to offer public sanctuary and give open aid to Salvadoran refugees in this country who have been declared illegal aliens by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

After much congregational education and discussion, the Wellington Avenue Church voted on July 18 to make space available within the church facilities for Salvadorans fleeing the violence in their homeland. More than 70 other Chicago area churches and synagogues are assisting by providing food, clothing, and a 'round-the-clock security watch. "Someone is always present to protect the refugees from possible arrest by government agents and to accept responsibility for defying a policy the members consider immoral and illegal," says Pastor Chevrier.

At issue is the judgment of the Immigration and Naturalization Service that Salvadorans are leaving their homeland for economic and not political reasons and are therefore not qualified for refugee status. The United Nations High Commission on Refugees, however, has declared that persons fleeing El Salvador at this time are indeed political refugees, and it has questioned the U.S. stand.

The first refugee to find sanctuary at the Wellington Avenue Church was Juan (not his real name), who was welcomed at a special service on July 24. He stayed until August 5, when he left for private sanctuary with a family to await clearance for entry into Canada. Canada has begun accepting Salvadorans rejected by the U.S.

On August 7 the "Vargas" family arrived and its six members were received into the church with these words, proclaimed by the congregation in both English and Spanish: "Welcome to the sanctuary of God. To the best of our ability we will protect you, and our God will protect us all." As a part of the welcome service, the congregation shared a loaf of *pupusa,* a Salvadoran bread, and offered the Vargases "love, care, and solidarity." With tears creeping under the masks worn to conceal their identities, Mr. Vargas and his family accepted the offer of sanctuary.

On October 10 the congregation will vote whether to continue sanctuary. According to the pastor, this has so far been "a powerful experience and a deep blessing to the congregation."

UCC Churches Fail To Resettle Haitians

More than 200 Haitians have been temporarily resettled during the summer by denominations related to Church World Service, **but not one of these was resettled by a UCC congregation.** This was in spite of urgent nationwide appeals to our churches. Fortunately, the quota assigned to the UCC was absorbed by other denominations which undertook to resettle more than the number assigned to them.

These particular Haitians were among the 1,700 ordered released from federal detention by Judge Eugene Spellman of Miami on July 23. They now await court hearings on their appeals for political asylum here in the U.S.

First Asylum Program Gathers Steam

"Nation of First Asylum"—this is the title given the United States in connection with people who flee political violence in their homelands and seek sanctuary on our shores. Salvadorans, Guatemalans, and Haitians for the most part, they are not recognized by Washington as bona fide political refugees and are therefore not granted the assistance normally available. In fact, they are subject to arrest and deportation if they cannot manage to find help.

But churches and other voluntary agencies are coming to the rescue. Denominations working with Church World Service have offered nearly a quarter million dollars for the last three months of 1982 to meet part of the cost of first asylum programs.

A refugee and immigration advocacy office has now been opened in Washington, headed by Michael Meyers, so that churches can be heard by representatives and senators as refugee concerns are presented.

Meanwhile, as first asylum seekers fan out into communities nationwide, local church groups are responding effectively and compassionately to their needs. Their involvement with refugees is increasing dramatically as they deal with victims of political oppression on their own doorstep.

What the UCC Is Doing For Refugees

In early October the UCC "Advisory Committee for Immigration and Refugee Concerns" met in Los Angeles to search for more effective ways of responding to immigration and refugee matters. Mandated in 1981 by General Synod 13, this committee brings together staff members of the United Church Boards for World Ministries and Homeland Ministries, the Office for Church in Society, and the Commission on Racial Justice, plus representatives from the Pacific and Asian-American Ministries, the Council for Hispanic Ministries, Ministries for Racial and Social Justice, and United Black Christians, as well as a Conference staff person.

The establishment of a UCC network on refugee response was top priority at the Los Angeles meeting, and plans are now being developed to set up contact committees or find contact individuals within each Conference. They will become key elements in the network of response.

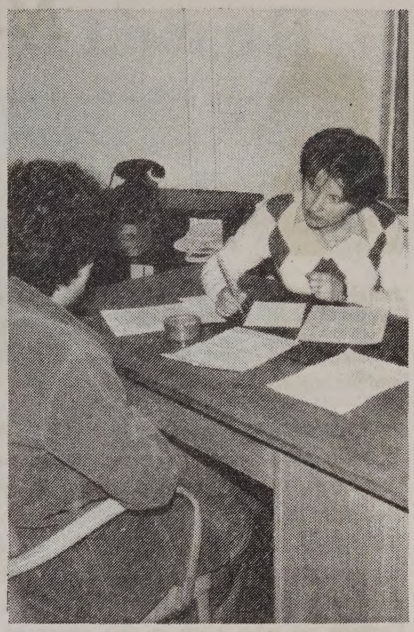
In addition to the Advisory Committee, the "Justice in Immigration" pronouncement at General Synod 13 created a "Working Group on Immigration and Refugee Matters" composed of staff from the UCBWM, the Board for Homeland Ministries, the Commission on Racial Justice, and the Office for Church in Society. This group has been meeting monthly for over a year to coordinate immigration and refugee activities of the various instrumentalities.

SPONSORS!

YOU ARE STILL NEEDED

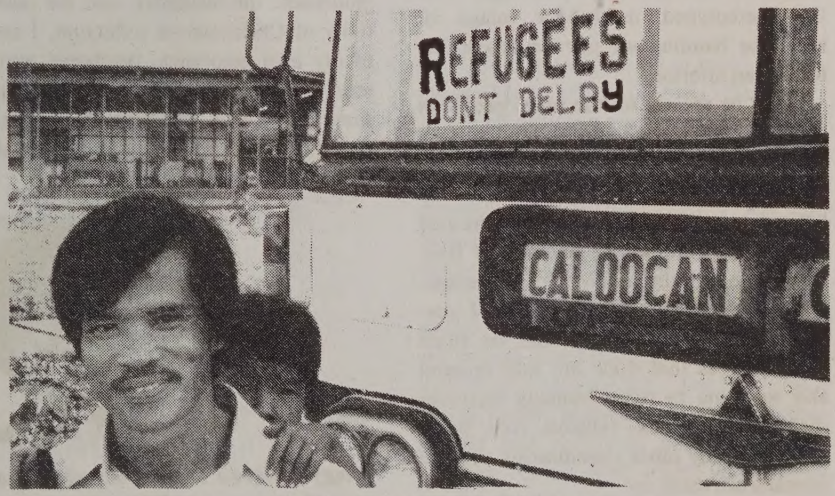
The numbers of refugees admitted to the U.S. for resettlement are decreasing, but there is still a critical need for sponsors, particularly for Afghans and Ethiopians. For the Indo-Chinese, most of whom are now "family reunification" cases, sponsors are needed in the communities where relatives live.

For the current list of refugees needing sponsors or for other information, write or call the Refugee Resettlement Office of the United Church Board for World Ministries, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115. Phones: (212) 870-3369 and 870-2169.



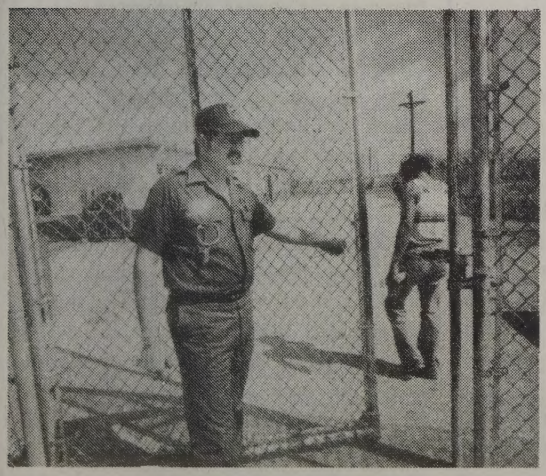
UNHCR/L. Davico

Polish refugee in Austria



L. Van Vactor

Vietnamese in Philippines



Marc PoKempner

Salvadoran in the U.S.

Wayne Whittlesey

Haitians being released in Miami

Missionaries' Notebook

JAPAN

Janell Landis, *teacher of spoken English at Miyagi College for women in Sendai, speaks a timely word about missionary stereotypes and the real meaning of mission.*

"If I have learned anything at all in these 29 years as a missionary in Japan it has been not to underestimate the power of God's Spirit working in so many marvelous ways. This causes me to react quite negatively to the typical American church member's concern for countable converts. Perhaps we who work in this advanced, thriving, economically high-powered nation will always have to struggle with the stereotyped missionary image of someone 'handing out' physical or spiritual food to an inferior.

"God be praised for the many people in our U.S. churches who understand mission as something besides a handout. The celebration of life, the awareness of the unlimited possibilities for upholding human dignity, the common recognition of frailties and the common need for forgiveness, the determination to be on the side of creative love and life-giving—these are some of the forces that draw me into mission and weld me to other humans whatever their age, size, sex, religion, race, background or any other classification that we humans can think up!"

INDIA

David C. Gallup, *missionary in India since 1959, is on furlough in the United States until January 1983. In India he serves as pastor of a church in the southern city of Madurai.*

The longer I am a missionary, the more foreign I become on both sides of the ocean. The longer I live in India, the more alien I find that I am, the more I realize that my cultural, psychological, and intellectual roots are back here in America.

But when I come to America I suffer culture shock, and I realize how alien I have become to my own culture. I cannot wave the flag the way many of my Pennsylvania relatives do. I cannot accept the inbuilt values that seem to permeate my television-conscientized friends. I stand somewhere in between, neither fish nor fowl. I'm a foreign missionary. And my witness is not just to India, for I come now from India to witness to America.

I have experienced here the wonder of going to churches and discovering the fellowship to which we belong, the shared concern, and the working of the Spirit that binds us together in communities concerned about Christian mission. But I have also experienced, with great dismay, the ignorance, the insularity, and the insensitivity of Christians—a reflection, I know, of my own ignorance, insularity, and insensitivity. I am hurt by this, and I wonder sometimes: what can I possibly do or say that will help people become somehow less foreign to each other?

ZAMBIA

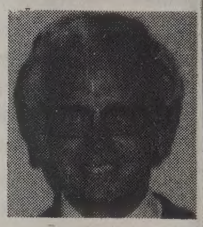
Peggy Andrews *teaches religious knowledge and English at the Njase Girl's School in Choma.*

Women are struggling here in Zambia, and many of the girls have spoken with me about practices that they feel are unfair. In a competition, our head girl gave a speech about the right of a widow to keep her children. If a woman is widowed she has no right to any of the things in the home or to the children, only to her personal things that she can carry away herself.

I saw this happen when one of the male staff members died. We also have a woman here who is a widow, and none of her five children can be with her.

In my classes with the girls I stress that Jesus was the first great liberator of women. Genesis 1:27 has almost become our motto. These girls want homes and children, but many are not willing to give up their dignity and self-respect for the role of a subservient wife.

For women here in Zambia, as in the world over, to take their God-created place beside men, we have to help men to understand that we are *both* created in God's image, male and female. Pray that both women and men may come to understand and accept what God planned from the beginning!



JAPAN

William Mensendiek, *professor of Christian studies at North Japan University, says that "none of us are quite the same since listening to Dr. Noboru Iwamura."*

Last January a peacemaker came to our university, Dr. Noboru Iwamura, pioneer missionary to Nepal from the United Church of Japan. He began by explaining why he had to remain seated while speaking. He had been in Hiroshima on that fateful day, and if he stands very long he bleeds internally. Yet for some 20 years he was a doctor in a remote area of the Himalayas.

In his early years, before his little hospital was known, he made trips to the villages to heal as best he could. One day he found an old woman who needed hospital care. He hired a porter to carry her—a three-day trip. But when he tried to pay him, the young man refused, saying, "How can I who am young and healthy take money to help this sick old women?"

Coming back to Japan, Dr. Iwamura feels like Urashima Taro (Rip Van Winkle). The soft life and crass materialism scare him—the over-eating, over-drinking, massive smoking, riding instead of walking, using elevators instead of stairs, drinking soda instead of water, the litter, the waste. The Japanese, he says, have become "shopping animals," exploiters of resources and markets overseas.

His call is to embrace the simple life—"grass roots living"—which means using all things carefully and living for others. Fasting and tithing are the way to begin such discipline.

(William and Barbara Mensendiek are on furlough in the U.S. until next spring.)

HONDURAS

Bob and Kay Olson *are on the staff of CEVER, the vocational school in Yoro, Bob as a teacher of industrial arts, Kay in management and marketing.*

In 1980 various people from CEVER, the Vocational Education Center of the Evangelical and Reformed Church of Honduras, began nutrition work in a suburb of Yoro called El Pantano, or The Swamp. It is a village of adobe houses where as many as 18 people live in a one- or two-room hut. The children are poorly-clad, thin-armed and pot-bellied from their regular diet of rice, beans, and tortillas. They have never had meat or milk or vegetables—-perhaps an egg now and than.

But the soil in Honduras is good, the sun shines every day, and there is enough moisture to support plant life. For this reason the staff at the Nutrition Center has been instructing the local mothers in gardening techniques and supplying them with free seeds.

In addition, the women have been taught to make soap from animal fat in order to make washing more economical. They have been taught to boil water to avoid diarrhea and other illnesses. Children have been taught basic hygiene habits such as brushing their teeth. While they are in class they get a snack of milk and rice or popcorn or cereal. Just recently the director has introduced family planning education, a controversial issue in a Catholic country.

Nowadays when we walk through El Pantano we see vegetable gardens, chickens in pens, even latrines here and there. A few mothers are boiling their water, and one of them told me yesterday, "Since I started boiling my water I haven't been as sick as I was in other years."

And now we can answer the often-asked question: What does CEVER have to do with mission?

If I am hungry, if I am sick, if my life, because of my environment, has been less than good to me, I will find it hard to listen to someone talking in terms of eternal life. I am concerned too much about my life *now, today.*

So if we as Christians can put the two together, our faith with our works, and can help people to meet their physical needs, they will be willing to listen to and learn of a God who promises eternal life. The Yoro Evangelical and Reformed Church is working hand-in-hand with us at CEVER to show people both sides of the Gospel of Christ.

"Let's Go and Learn!"

Village Health workers of the Jamkhed Project.
Photo by Perry Hier of the UCBWM Board of Directors

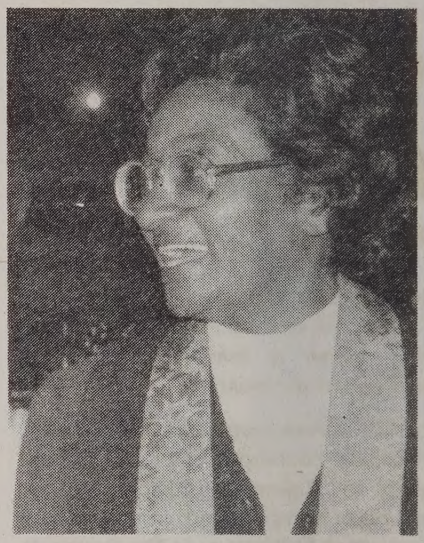
Let us go to Jamkhed
And learn as much as we can.
Let us go to class and learn
And tell all the world what we
have found out.
Oh women, why do you suffer
in silence,
Chained to stove and
kitchen?
It's time to get up and out.
Let's get into politics and
take leadership.
Freedom!
Let us go to the Project!

Former UCBWM director Sandra Rooney of Nebraska brings back these lines from a recent trip to India. It was illiterate village women who sang the song as they gathered around one of their own number, chosen by them to receive training as a health worker for their village.

The project they are talking about is the Comprehensive Rural Health Project in the village of Jamkhed, founded and directed by Christian doctors Raj and Mabelle Arole and supported from its beginning by the UCBWM.

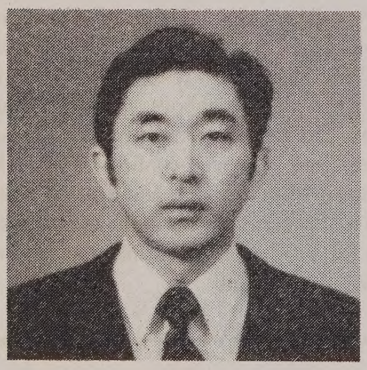
"Through basic health education [such as that offered at Jamkhed], these women are gaining some measure of control over their lives," says Sandra. "The face of that village health worker as she spoke to her friends and neighbors gathered around her, the respect with which they treated her, and the self-confidence she had gained from learning and sharing secrets of a healthier life lives in my memory. She is the hope of India's tomorrow, she and thousands like her."

WHOLE EARTH NEWS BRIEFS



REV. MARGARET CONSTABLE made history recently in South Africa, when she was inducted as the first woman chairperson of the **UNITED CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA,** a partner of the United Church of Christ. Her commissioning service was held at the Anglican cathedral in the "diamond city" of Kimberley at the close of the church's annual General Assembly. Standing behind the cathedral's high altar, she led the huge crowd in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

A graduate of Fort Hare University and a high school teacher, Margaret Constable took further study in order to be ordained in the Congregational ministry. After two years as a youth worker, she became minister of a rural parish. In order that her husband Colin might complete his ministerial studies at the Federal Theological Seminary, she not only served as church pastor but taught high school and raised their three children as well. The Constables now have a joint pastorate in Johannesburg. In her important new role, Mrs. Constable will help the church throughout her country to meet the challenges of a society where, for vast numbers of people, hardship, poverty, injustice, and oppression form the daily experience.



UCC missionary **RON FUJIYOSHI** has been indicted in Kobe, Japan for violation of the Alien Registration Law. As part of a protest movement against this law, Ron refused to be fingerprinted while being processed as a foreign resident. His trial was set for September, but as this goes to press there has been no word on the outcome.

The Alien Registration Law is particularly repressive for second- and third-generation Koreans in Japan, who are not allowed citizenship. Ron's ministry is with the Korean community in Kobe, where he works in a sandal factory as part of his ministry among industrial laborers. The UCBWM stands behind him in his witness for justice and human rights, key elements in Christian mission.

For the latest news and comment about UCC ministries around the world, all you have to do is pick up the phone and call the

UCBWM NEWS LINE — (212) 870-3257

UNITED CHURCH BOARD FOR WORLD MINISTRIES
475 Riverside Drive New York, N.Y. 10115

POSTSCRIPT: The U.S. nuclear submarine *Corpus Christi* is being renamed ***CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI.*** The change follows protests from church people and others. One protest came from the Rev. Reinhard Groscurth on behalf of the Evangelical Church of the Union (EKU) in West Germany. Another was from the UCC's General Synod 13. (See the *Whole Earth Newsletter,* Fall 1981.) While Corpus Christi is the name of a city in Texas, it was the basic meaning of the Latin words—"body of Christ"—that Christians found offensive for the name of a nuclear submarine. Said Dr. Groscurth, "By giving this name the United States heaped insult upon sensitive Christians around the globe."

Have you contributed to **BOOKS FOR ZIMBABWE? The need:** School libraries in that nation were devastated by 14 years of civil war. **The target:** 50 rural Christian schools, grades 1-8, in the Mt. Selinda-Chikore area where the UCC has worked since 1893. **The goal:** 10,000 new or good used books; encyclopedias; magazine subscriptions.

A filmstrip on the project will be in each Conference office by November. Producer is project coordinator **Mark Beckmeyer** of the Southern Illinois Conference. For further information, write the Africa Office, UCBWM, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115.

The 173rd **ANNUAL MEETING** of the **UNITED CHURCH BOARD FOR WORLD MINISTRIES** will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, November 14-17, 1982 on the theme: "The Cost and Joy of Peace." Host for the meeting is the UCC's Ohio Conference. Attending will be 225 Corporate Members of the Board from throughout the United States, a score of missionaries on furlough from their work abroad, 10 women representing overseas churches in the "Women and World Project," and several other delegates from partner churches.

THE COST AND JOY OF PEACE

The Church Stands Fast Against Poison Gas

by Zelle W. Andrews

The determination of the Reagan Administration to resume U.S. production of lethal chemical weapons after a 13-year moratorium has reactivated the United Church of Christ community on the issue of biochemical warefare. On record in opposition to chemical weapons in 1969 and 1977, the General Synod declared in 1981 that the development and use of such weapons were "completely contrary to the Gospel of Jesus Christ." It also called upon Congress to defeat any attempts to fund chemical weapons and for UCC Conferences and local church members to express their opposition to lethal chemical weapons production to the President and their representatives in Congress.

The United Church Board for World Ministries responded promptly to this renewed concern. It joined as a founding member of the Coalition Against the Production of Lethal Chemical Weapons, which now comprises over 40 national religious, scientific, environmental and women's groups. Timely information from the UCC Office for Church in Society in Washington enables members of the Coalition to express their opposition to funding for binary nerve gas facilities at the moment when members of Congress are considering the legislation.

New Investment Policy

In June the Board of Directors of UCBWM adopted a new investment policy on companies that produce biochemical weapons. They asked the Finance and Investment Committee "seriously to consider, among other investment criteria, guidelines which identify corporations that are direct contributors to biological or chemical weapons production or research and development." The World Issues Office will provide the Committee with the names of corporations that are involved in such production, and the Committee will then decide whether their securities should not be purchased or should be sold within a reasonable time.

To gather the names of chemical weapons producers, the World Issues Office sent questionnaires in June and July to 62 companies asking them to describe any policy they had on biochemical weapons and to state whether they had a contract for nerve gas production or would be willing to accept one in the future. A preliminary review of the survey indicates that few companies have specific policy on chemical weapons nor do they currently have any contract with the federal government to produce them. Replies to the questionnaire indicate that our concern is causing a number of the corporations to evaluate carefully any potential involvement in chemical weapons production.

Religious Impact in Washington

Religious concern has also been felt in Washington where chemical weapons funding has been stopped at least until the spring of 1984. Hard work by religious groups and other supporters helped to persuade the House Appropriations Committee to defeat Administration efforts to spend $54 million for chemical weapons in fiscal year 1983. It was a great victory for all of us who believe that the world does not need an arms race to produce more poison gas.

NEW INVESTMENT POLICY ON WEAPONS PRODUCERS

The Board of Directors of the United Church Board for World Ministries voted in June to request that the Finance and Investment Committee seriously consider, among other investment criteria, guidelines which identify corporations that are:

1. Direct contributors to nuclear weapons research and development, the production of key nuclear components for nuclear warheads, or the management of nuclear weapons facilities owned by the United States Government.
2. Direct contributors to biological or chemical weapons production or research and development.
3. Among the one hundred leading military contractors to the Department of Defense and who are dependent on military contracts for more than 20 percent of their sales (as determined by the average ratio of military contracts to sales in the most recent three-year period for which data are available).

If the Finance and Investment Committee determined that "securities of a particular corporation should not be held, then any such securities shall not be purchased and any such securities currently held will be sold within a reasonable time."

For a list of the companies that fall within the guidelines, write to the World Issues Office, UCBWM, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115.

(Dr. Zelle W. Andrews is Associate in the UCBWM World Issues Office.)

"What is the chance that the Soviets will send their tanks through central Europe? Well, it is a fraction of one percent, but we cannot take a chance on it. And so we devote approximately one-fourth of our defense budget to that fraction-of-one-percent possibility.

"But what is the chance the Soviets will take advantage of hunger, desperation, and chaos in a developing nation? The chance is 99 percent—and we are talking of cutting back in that area."

— U.S. Rep. Paul Simon (Dem. Ill.) quoted by the National Council of Churches

UCBWM Welcomes New Staff Members

A warm welcome to the following persons who have joined the homebase staff of the World Board during the summer months:

Patricia J. Rumer has taken over the desk for Latin America and the Caribbean. She succeeds Rev. Gustav H. Kuether of St. Louis who for over a year has handled the Latin America portfolio on a part-time basis in addition to his work with the Division of World Service. She also takes over responsibility for Board work and relationships in the Central and South Pacific, now to be called "Oceania."

Ms. Rumer comes to the UCBWM from Portland, Oregon, where most recently she has been serving as coordinator for refugees. She has also worked with agencies (particularly the American Friends Service Committee) dealing with community development in Latin America, and some years ago she helped set up women's and children's programs in an Indian highland village in Guatemala. A member of the UCC, she has also served as research consultant in a project of the UCC Central Pacific Conference dealing with needs of Hispanics. She has her B.A. and M.A. degrees in political science and a Ph.D. in urban studies.

Joining the staff as Associate for East-West Relations and Europe is **Rev. Kenneth R. Ziebell,** who has been an associate missionary of the UCC since 1968. Most recently he and his wife Marian have headed the Ayia Napa Conference Center in Cyprus.

Mr. Ziebell, who has both expertise and wide experience with the Eastern Orthodox churches, will be helping to develop relations between churches in the United States and churches behind the Berlin Wall; to manage UCBWM services in connection with the new relationship with the Evangelical Church of the Union (EKU) in the two Germanies; to foster close ties with Christians in the U.S.S.R.; and to study the possibilities for expanded political, economic, and cultural relations between the Soviet bloc and the U.S. Mr.

Continued on page 15

The New Congregation of Buen Pastor

By Arthur Von Gruenigen

A large church in a city of three million inhabitants sooner or later has to face up to the challenge of beginning a new congregation. Buen Pastor (Good Shepherd) Church in Guadalajara, Mexico is now trying to do just that.

About a year ago, five laymen of the church decided that it was time to begin a ministry outside the walls of Buen Pastor. Over on the other side of the city, in a poor neighborhood, the church owns some property where a social center carries on its work. It seemed a good place to organize a new congregation. Four families of our church live in that area and could help.

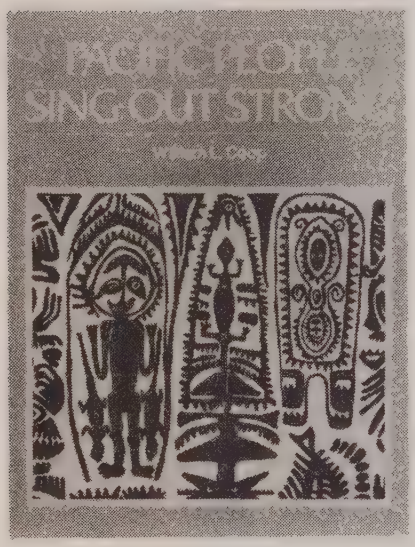
Arrangements were made to have a service each Sunday evening. Eight lay people took turns directing the services. Almost immediately two difficulties had to be faced. Many members of Buen Pastor felt threatened by the attempt to organize a new church. They were afraid that it might take members away from their church. The second difficulty was that the people of the neighborhood showed little interest in attending the services. Many had reached the point where religion just didn't interest them.

It was now nearly Christmas time. Many things had been tried, but nothing had worked. Only two of the four families living in the new area were still attending the services. It was decided to turn over the entire responsibility to them.

It was at this point that a teenaged girl came to the rescue. Eighteen-year-old Rocio, a member of one of the two families, decided that the best way to interest people in the church was to give them a job. She rounded up a group of youth from her neighborhood and persuaded them to take part in a Christmas play. These young people were not the type you might choose. Not only had they never taken part in a drama, but some of them had severe personal problems with drugs and alcohol. Night after night Rocio drilled them in her home. Christmas came, and the drama was a great success. In fact, on January 6 the group put on the same drama in Buen Pastor to a large and enthusiastic audience.

The new congregation, meeting every Sunday night in the Gigantes Social Center, could now count on seven new members. Rocio's father, Felipe, became the leader of the congregation. His own testimony is powerful. A few years ago, sin threatened to destroy him. God saved him. His gratitude is apparent in all the work that he is doing. Last March Felipe organized a retreat in our church camp for the new congregation. A total of 25 persons attended, most of them young people from the neighborhood of the Gigantes Center. How wonderful it would be to have dozens of groups like this one established all over the city, each one led by a Spirit-filled Christian!

Voices from the Pacific Islands



The quotations that follow express some of the concerns and fears, the anger and aspiration of people from various islands of the Central and South Pacific. Used with permission, they are taken from ***Pacific People Sing Out Strong****, one of the books published by Friendship Press on this year's interdenominational study theme, "Peoples of the Pacific."*

Milking the Natives

I never invited you
but you came to my island
and I welcomed you

You told me
I was a savage
and I believed you

You told me I was doomed to hell
and I was scared
you gave me your bible
and I prayed

You told me to till my island
I planted coconuts for your profits
you told me to dig holes and bunkers and
I defended you with my life and land
but you bombed my house and my land
and I ran into the woods

You told me
you freed me from your war
and I should be grateful
to you as my liberator

You established your government
on my island
without my permission

You sent me to your school
and I learned your way
and I worked for you as an office boy
you gave me your dollars
and I bought your things

Now you tell me
I cannot live without
your money
your way
your things
and I believe you

But I can only get them
if I give you my island and freedom
Never!!!

— Senator Moses Uludong of Palau

"On that day, we saw a flash of lightning in the West like a second sun rising. We heard a loud explosion, and within minutes the ground began to shake. A few hours later the radioactive fallout began to drop on the people, into the drinking water and on the food. The children played in the colorful ash-like powder."

— *John Anjain, Rongelap, Marshall Islands, in testimony to a U.S. State Department Commission investigating the continuing effects of atomic testing at Bikini Atoll*

"Human relationship is what we are trying to achieve for our people. Human relationships are more powerful than the atomic bomb."

— *Dr. Alexius Sarei, former head of the provisional government, Papua New Guinea*

"Harmful substances such as nuclear, chemical, gas or biological weapons intended for use in warfare, nuclear power plants and waste materials therefrom, shall not be used, tested, stored or disposed of within the territorial jurisdiction of Palau without the express approval of not less than three-fourths of the votes cast in a referendum submitted on the specific question."

— *Constitution of Palau, 1979, the first constitution in the world to ban all nuclear materials*

"We have to live by loving and hoping and not die by hating and despairing. . . . We must try to live as far as we can by the sacred charter of the Beatitudes."

— *Bernard Narokobi, lawyer and Catholic lay leader, Papua New Guinea*

"It is love that the economic systems of our time reject. It is human love that our technological world belittles. It is human love that bureaucracy fences around with its legal criterion and classification. . . . It must be a sharing community that we develop, sharing between people, not between business companies."

— *Rev. Leslie Boseto, Bishop of the Solomon Islands, United Church of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands*

"My vision is that we replace Western assumptions—destructive values and void philosophies—with those of our people, in order for us to be authentic and independent peoples in the image of God. . . . The only true and genuine basis of independence for the countries in the Pacific is dependent on the type of love and care we give to human life."

— *Fr. Walter Lini of the Anglican Church, now Prime Minister of Vanuatu*

Pacific People Sing Out Strong, William L. Coop, ed. (ISBN 0-377-00118-X) $4.95. This book and the complete Friendship Press catalog can be ordered from your religious resource center or from Friendship Press, P.O. Box 37844, Cincinnati, OH 45237.

PACIFIC CITIZENS PRESS FOR RIGHTS

by Paul R. Gregory

"OPERATION HOMECOMING is a return from Ebeye Island, where we have lived in concentrated slum-like conditions for many years, to our home islands of Kwajalein Atoll. This entirely peaceful re-settlement is protesting the general lack of concern the United States military has shown for the living conditions of the relocated Kwajalain people, for their ownership rights as traditional leaders of these islands, and for the future of the Kwajalein people and an entire civilization."

The Kwajalein Atoll Corporation, July 1982

Not at all happy with the terms the U.S. government is offering for modified self-government, the citizens of the Marshall Islands in the Central Pacific have deployed some 1,000 of their people over a dozen islands that have long been out-of-bounds because they are the target area for testing dummy nuclear warheads.

The U.S. missile base headquarters is on Kwajalein Island, 700 acres in size, where two beaches are being "occupied." Sit-ins are also being held at a dozen even smaller islands in the middle of the present target range.

Since being evacuated from their home islands, these Micronesian people—8,000 of them—have been living crowded onto the little ghetto island of Ebeye (65 acres). Quite simply they want their home islands back, or they want at least to be adequately compensated for them. They insist on two specifics:

1) complete independence as one option on the ballot for the proposed plebiscite that will end their status as a Trust Territory of the U.S.;

2) the return of their island or at least a far better rental for the missile base land than they have had for 30 years.

The response of the U.S. Military Command to the sit-in was to threaten to shut off the water supply and food imports, but court orders have favored the Micronesians at these points. Now, however, there are new threats of cutting off banking services and food imports on September 30, when the lease agreement with the U.S. expires.

But the pressures for people's rights and a nuclear-free Pacific are amplifying the roar of these Pacific people. We need to understand that our military priorities dare not ignore the basic rights of some of the least-known of God's children.

(Paul R. Gregory is regional secretary of the UCBWM for the Pacific area.)

For Reference and Reading

World Christian Encyclopaedia, David Barrett, ed., Oxford University Press, 1982.

Can you name a nation where a Muslim who becomes a Christian can face the death penalty? (Answer: Afghanistan.)

Do you know how many Christian denominations there are in the world? (This answer will shock you: 20,800.)

These are only two facts in an extraordinary compilation of information—1,010 large pages of it—published recently as the *World Christian Encyclopaedia.* Photos, maps, statistics, a who's who of Christian organizations, a chronology of key events in the spread of Christianity—all these are part of this global record of the faith that *Time* magazine calls "a bench mark in our understanding of the religious state of the planet."

The *World Christian Encyclopaedia* is not only a rich storehouse of information but fascinating reading as well. However, the price is steep for an ordinary household. Why not put in a request for it in your local library?

Have You Seen These New Audio-Visuals?

Hiroshima/Nagasaki: The Harvest of Nuclear War, a 45-minute, 16 mm. color-sound film produced in 1982 by a Japanese company, Iwanami Productions.

For those who remember August 6, 1945, there are haunting black-and-white sequences of the immediate destruction. For all, there is a frank, honest, and numbing glimpse of what has happened to a few of the survivors. If you and your church are ready to learn what really happens in a nuclear attack and its aftermath (a small attack compared to the possibilities today), write to: Mr. Paul Shannon, American Friends Service Committee, 1611 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02138. Or phone: (617) 497-5273. Film rental $15. Advance reservations strongly recommended.

The Jewel Reclaimed, a 26-minute, 16 mm. color film produced in 1982.

This film on war-ravaged Kampuchea (Cambodia) provides first a historical overview, then documents the difference human assistance from governments and voluntary agencies has made in halting death from starvation and disease. The focus is on aid from U.S. churches through Church World Service—on rebuilding the irrigation system, reopening the schools, reestablishing food production. It is a film of hope as the Khmer people fight their way out of devastation and begin to reclaim the jewel of their identity and culture.

Funding for this work in Kampuchea comes from churches such as the UCC through One Great Hour of Sharing. The film is an excellent way to show your congregation where their dollars go. For film rental write: Mr. Larry Hollon, Church World Service Interpretation, Room 620, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115. Or phone: (212) 870-2079. No charge for rental except postal fee.

Chronicle

APPOINTMENTS

Botswana

Shirley J. S. Babcock, work with handicapped under Mennonite Central Committee. Associate 3 years. Home church: First Congregational UCC, Rhinelander, WI.

India

Thelma G. Belair, houseparent at Kodaikanal School, Kodaikanal School, Kodaikanal, following two months at International House, Penarth, Wales. Volunteer, 8 months. Home church: Pleasant Hill (TN) Community Church.

Japan

Abbie J. W. Bakony, English teacher at Kobe College, Nishinomiya. Individual appointment, 3 years. Home church: University Congregational Church UCC, Seattle, WA.

Cheryl Anne Calletta, English teacher at Kobe College, Nishinomiya. Individual appointment, 3 years. Home church: Bridgewater (NJ) United Methodist Church.

Nigeria

Virginia Haigh, high school math and science teacher, Kwara State. Affiliate, 3 years. Home church: Plymouth Congregational UCC, Seattle, WA.

Sri Lanka

Lori Sollenberger, dairy production, Navajeevanam, Paranthan. Volunteer, 6 months. Home church: Everett Church of the Brethren, Everett, PA.

Togo

Benjamin J. and Gerlinde M. Skaggs, agricultural development and training, Atakpame. Team appointment, 3 years. Home church: Carbondale (IL) First United Methodist

Turkey

Paige E. Payne, English teacher at American Collegiate Institute, Izmir. Associate, 2 years. Home church: Lake Burien Presbyterian Church and University Congregational Church UCC, Seattle, WA.

United Kingdom

Kenneth E. and Ruth L. W. Bishop, he as pastor of the United Reformed Church, Fareham, England. Associate, 1 year. Home church: St. Stephen's UCC, Harrisburg, VA.

Karl E. and Peggy A. Olson, St. Andrew's United Reformed Church, he to be pastor, Chatham, England. Associate, 3 years. Home church: Fremont (CA) Congregational Church UCC.

International Associates under "Women and World" Program

Christobella N. Bagh, India. 10 months with the Missouri Conference.

Suguna Devasundaram, India. 6 months beginning April '83, at University Congregational Church UCC, Seattle, WA.

Vida Dzobo, Ghana. 6 months with the Iowa Conference.

Mary Elias, Sri Lanka. 8 months with the Southern, Southeast, and Hawaii Conferences.

Purificacion Ignacio, Philippines. 10 months with the New York Conference.

Susan Mkwakwami, Zimbabwe. 8 months with the Southern California Conference.

Edelmira Navarro, Philippines. 10 months with the Massachusetts and Rhode Island Conferences.

Ennah Nsofu, Zambia. 9 months with the South Dakota and Nebraska Conferences.

Ysel Perez, Cuba. 4 months with the Central Pacific Conference.

Ellen Segbefia, Ghana. 10 months with the Connecticut Conference.

FURLOUGHS

Katherine E. Brearley and Thomas N. Thomas (Zambia), 9 months beginning September.

Arthur A. and Dolores B. Von Gruenigen (Mexico), 3 months beginning September.

RETURN TO FIELD

Johannes E. and Sylvia Meyer, Turkey.

Blanche M. and Forrest H. Norris, Turkey.

REASSIGNMENT

Martha R. and Nathan L. Knoll, to rural development work, Sri Lanka

COMPLETION OF TERM

J. Paul and Meredith J. Hudson, Australia (1979-82)

Barbara J. Kacena, Turkey (1981-82)

David D. and Margaret M. Larson, Japan (1981-82)

Eliezer D. and Portia R. Mapanao, international associates from the Philippines to the Michigan Conference (1981-82)

Martha D. Neavor, Turkey (1980-82)

Ronald L. Prior, Zaire (1980-82)

Elizabeth G. and James R. Stricker, Nepal (1979-82)

Charles C. and Nancy C. Wallick, Zimbabwe (1981-82)

Helen K. and Masayoshi Wakai, Japan (1980-1982)

Carolyn K. and Walter Ziffer, Belgium (1977-82)

Miriam D. Brown, India (1937-82) has returned to the U.S., completing 45 years of service. In 1979 she "retired" from the Board, but, at the request of Lady Doak College, she stayed on for another three years as chaplain, volunteering her service and having no formal appointment.

RESIGNATIONS

Cavol V. Geren, Turkey (1978-82)

Laura Hill, Turkey (1981-82)

Barbara B. Howell, Turkey (1981-82)

LOSSES IN THE BOARD FAMILY

James A. Johnson, a missionary in Turkey (1956-1961), died in Putney, Vermont in April, 1982, at the age of 51.

A teacher of English and mathematics, Mr. Johnson was appointed to teach at the Boys' School in Talas. While there, he and his wife were leaders at the first international work camp ever held in Turkey. At the close of their term with the Board, Mr. Johnson served on the staff of Robert College in Istanbul.

Helen Dizney, missionary in North China (1920-1942, 1946-1950) and Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) (1951-1958), died in Claremont, California on September 25, 1982 at the age of 87.

Helen Dizney went to North China as a nurse and served in Taiku and Tehsien until 1942, when war interrupted her work and she was repatriated on the *Gripsholm.* When peace returned she went back, this time to Tunghsien and Peking.

Again in 1950, politics forced Miss Dizney to come home. Asking the Board for reassignment, she was sent in 1951 to the Rhodesia Mission, where she served at the Mt. Selinda Hospital until her retirement in 1958. Still active, she then joined the staff of Yankton College in South Dakota as campus nurse and housemother. For the last 18 years she had lived at Pilgrim Place in Claremont.

Helen Dizney is survived by two sisters, Miss Margaret E. Dizney and Mrs. Grace Fields, both of Pleasant Hill, TN 38578.

Jane D. Walther (Mrs. Paul), a missionary in the Philippines (1956-1976), died in Audubon, Iowa on June 13, 1982 at the age of 53.

Daughter of a minister, active church worker, graduate nurse, wife, mother of four, and UCC missionary in the Philippines, Jean Walther lead a full and generous life until she contracted cancer while still serving abroad. She and her husband Paul were assigned by the Board to the Visayan areas of the Philippines, where poor agricultural conditions had retarded development and stunted the people's hopes. As Paul gave leadership in an intensive rural program, Jean was involved in family planning education and community health programs.

She is survived by her husband, Paul D. Walther (106 Third Ave., Audubon, IA 50025) and by their four sons.

GIFTS RECEIVED IN MEMORY OF

Mr. Robert W. Albrecht
Mrs. M. P. Albrecht
Ms. Naomi E. Blalock

Rev. Harry Bredeweg
Col/Mrs. Dalton Smith

Dr. Hale H. Cook
Ms. Miriam E. Rogers

Carol Wright Goodrich
Mr/Mrs. Willis White

Rev. Stephen Hieb
Rev/Mrs. Telfer Mook

Mr. James Johnson
Mr. Thomas D. Goodrich

Ms. Doris Larsen
Mrs. M. P. Davis

Rev. Theodore C. Braun
Mr/Mrs. Otto Artopoeus
Mrs. Helen E. Baker
Mrs. Joan Biek
Mr/Mrs. M. K. Blackman
Ms. Naomi E. Blalock
Mr/Mrs. C. W. Braun
Mr. Harold A. Braun
Dr/Mrs. Richard Braun
Rev/Mrs. Eugene Grau
Mrs. Vivian Hazel
Ms. Isabel Hemingway
Mr/Mrs. Armin Krebill
Mr/Mrs. Martin C. Meisner
Dr/Mrs. A. O. Miller
Ms. Luella C. Nieman
Ms. Gertrude Scheible
Mrs. Carl Sipple
Mr/Mrs. Robert Thelin
Ms. Eleanor Vieth
Mr/Mrs. Ralph E. Weisser

Ms. Jessie Martin
Ms. Marion Horton

Mrs. Grace W. Matthews
Ms. Patricia M. Matthews

Ms. Alice Murphy
Dr. Lavinia Scott
Ms. Isabel Hemingway

Mr. William Nolte
Dr/Mrs. A. O. Miller

Ms. Grace M. Robertson
Ms. Audrey N. Gilg
Ms. M. Naomi Foster
Mr/Mrs. Everett Blake
Ms. Mary J. McClellan

Dr. Gilbert Schroer
Ms. Audrey N. Gilg

Rev. John Schulz
Rev/Mrs. Telfer Mook

Rev. Ed Schweiger
Ms. Elsa F. Kaeser

Bertha St. Clair
Dr. Lavinia Scott

Rev. Herbert Van Meter
Bethany UCC, Montpelier, VT
Rev/Mrs. Telfer Mook
Mr/Mrs. Walter Judd
Col/Mrs. Dalton Smith
UCC, Kent, Ohio
Vermont Conference, UCC

Dr. Elmer Whitcomb
Rev/Mrs. Eugene Grau

Dr. M. J. White
Mr/Mrs. Lloyd Van Vactor

Mrs. Norman Zulauf
Dr/Mrs. A. O. Miller

NEW STAFF
Continued from page 6

Ziebell will be working closely with David Stowe, UCBWM executive vice president, who has recently taken major responsibility for the Board's work in Europe.

Missionary-in-residence in the Board rooms until June of 1983 is **Ms. Padmasani J. Gallup** of South India who, with her husband, Rev. David Gallup, is now on furlough in the U.S. Besides representing the missionary viewpoint in the staff, she will have the special responsibility of providing a global dimension as the UCC deals with the Family Life Priority mandated by General Synod 13. In India she teaches at the Tamilnad Theological Seminary in Arasaradi, Madurai.

Zelle W. Andrews, new Associate in the World Issues Offices, comes with a long record of experience both within the UCC and outside. Most recently she has been director of the Peace Advocacy Project of the UCC Office for Church in Society. Previous to that she was president of the New York State chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) and a member of NOW's national board. A graduate of Wheaton College, Norton, Mass., she has an M.A. and Ph.D. in history from the University of Hawaii and has taught behavioral sciences and American history at the college level.

There are several other new assignments and new faces in the Board rooms. **Beth Owens** is now administrative assistant in the offices for the Middle East and Latin America/Caribbean/Oceania. **Dorothy Hooper** is the new coordinator for interpretation and administration. **Joyce Peterson** is in the Word Processing Center, and **Judith Go** is lead operator. **Erlin Ibreck** from Uganda is assistant in the Refugee Resettlement Office, and **Barbara Henninges** is clerk/typist there. **Jean Schmidt** is secretary for the World Issues Office, and **Krista Dudley** is intern in the World Hunger Office.

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Whole Earth Newsletter is published three times a year by the United Church Board for World Ministries.

To the UCC minister: We hope that you will find the ***Newsletter*** useful in your church. Please share it with your Mission Committee and feel free to use the material in any way you wish.

If you are now receiving ***Whole Earth Newsletter*** either as a single copy or in bulk, we shall greatly appreciate your sending $1 for each year's subscription to Dalton Smith at UCBWM.

Episode in the Sabra Camp: A Parable for Today

by Dale L. Bishop

A kind of modern-day parable was played out in Beirut's Sabra camp for Palestinian refugees even as the massacre of the innocents was drawing to a close.

It began on the night of Friday, September 17. We were in west Beirut in the offices of the Middle East Council of Churches, when the International Red Cross called to say that foreign medical workers were being evacuated from Gaza Hospital because their safety could no longer be guaranteed. But the number of people urgently needing medical care was growing. Could MECC provide medical workers even without Red Cross protection?

A meeting of the medical team was called, and six people volunteered. One of them was a nurse. She went to Gaza Hospital and worked through the night—until Major Haddad's men ordered her and most of the foreigners to leave.

They were marched out through rows of Palestinians seated numbly by the road. They saw one man, a Palestinian male nurse, shot on the spot. They saw corpses and stinking mounds of earth they took to be shallow graves. When at last they reached a desolate and isolated area, they were told to take off their medical garb. The MECC nurse thought surely she was going to be killed. But then a fascinating exchange took place.

"Are you a Christian?" the militiaman asked.

"Yes."

"No, you can't be a Christian. You must be Baader-Meinhoff. Someone like that. No Christian would help the terrorists."

The nurse explained that members of the MECC medical team had also cared for Lebanese Christians in Zahleh and Baalbek when they were in great need. The militiaman was confused. And that confusion—plus the timely intervention of an Israeli soldier—may have saved the lives of the nurse and her companions.

Two versions of Christianity were evident that day in Sabra—Christianity as a label, Christianity as a way of life.

Because we in the United Church of Christ support the Middle East Council of Churches and its program of relief, rehabilitation, and reconciliation in Lebanon, we may have helped make it possible for this nurse to be a witness for the Christ who suffered and died for all God's children, whatever their politics, whatever their names.

(Dale Bishop is Middle East regional secretary for the UCBWM.)

Two congregations of the United Church of Christ have donated $5,000 each and another has given $1,000 for **EMERGENCY RELIEF AND REBUILDING IN LEBANON** following the destruction of countless homes, churches, schools, and hospitals. Church World Service has pledged $1 million, which it expects to raise from its constituent members such as the UCC. Every cent that is donated for this cause through UCC churches will go to help rebuild the shattered nation and to support Christian work there.